

News from the Director

By Alan McPherson



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Just as the globe is emerging from the long, dark tunnel of COVID-19, so is the CENFAD community. After a brief return to Zoom because of the Omicron wave, CENFAD re-returned to in-person speakers this semester. Equally important, our graduate students are finding archives slowly reopening, and they are making progress toward researching and writing their dissertations.

Please catch up on how the CENFAD community is doing in our “News from the Community” section in this issue!



Spring 2022 Colloquium

Our first guest speaker of the Spring semester joined us online because of a brief return to online teaching early in the semester. But as students and faculty returned to campus in February, so did our speakers. CENFAD hosted six regular speakers. [Videos](#) of all the events below are now embedded in CENFAD’s [lecture series page](#).

Please know that, from now on, we will be broadcasting CENFAD talks simultaneously on Zoom, and the link will be on the posters advertising the talks.

Our first guest, and our only guest online, was Allen Guelzo, senior research scholar at the Council for the Humanities at Princeton University. On January 20, [Guelzo discussed his new book, *Robert E. Lee: A Life*](#), addressing the differences in appreciation of Lee’s personal conduct versus his skills as a commander, and he answered questions about the recent controversies about Lee’s statue removal.

Once we were back on campus, our next guest, on February 8, was [Bob Vitalis, professor of political science at the University of Pennsylvania](#). His newest book, *Oilcraft: The Myths of Scarcity and Security that Haunt U.S. Energy Policy*, makes the argument that U.S. foreign policy has created the myth that petroleum is rare to facilitate the U.S. military presence in Saudi Arabia, among other things. CENFAD also interviewed him [here](#).

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On February 24, Elizabeth Varon, who used to teach at Temple but now is a professor of American history at the University of Virginia, [came to campus](#) to see old friends and discuss her book, *Armies of Deliverance: A New History of the Cold War*. As Varon argues in her interview with CENFAD and her ambitious re-telling of the entire war, Northerners who fought in or supported the war were particularly motivated by the desire to “deliver” poor white Southerners, imagining them to be the grip of elite Southern power, only to be met with massive resistance from those same so-called victims. Varon was interviewed by CENFAD [here](#).

On March 15, Matthew Specter, senior fellow at the Institute for European Studies at the University of California at Berkeley, [discussed his new book, *The Atlantic Realists: Empire and International Political Thought between Germany and the United States*](#). He sees realism as emerging as an Atlantic intellectual dialogue between Germans and Americans, for instance Hans Morgenthau and George Kennan, in the early twentieth century. CENFAD interviewed him [here](#).

Six days later, on March 21, Miguel La Serna, professor of history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, [discussed his new book, *With Masses and Arms: Peru's Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement*](#). Written as a thrilling narrative, the book unearths the little-known story of a guerrilla movement of the 1980s and 1990s that was outshined by the more violent Shining Path but that deserves to be remembered for its ideals and how the movement lost sight of them. CENFAD also interviewed him [here](#).

Finally, on April 4, Paul Adler, assistant professor of history at Colorado College,

[gave a talk on *No Globalization without Representation: U.S. NGOs and Global Inequality*](#). His new book looks at how U.S. based activists from the 1970s to the 1990s sought an alternative form of globalization not so beholden to neoliberalism. It is based on deep research and interviews with activists, some with whom Adler himself had worked before joining the academy. Adler was likewise interviewed by CENFAD [here](#).

Columnist Trudy Rubin at CENFAD

In response to Russian President Vladimir Putin’s invasion of Ukraine in late February, CENFAD invited a special guest to discuss these tragic events as they occurred. Trudy Rubin, a longtime journalist and the Worldview Columnist at the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, returned from Ukraine just before the fighting began. During [her visit to campus](#) on March 14—seen by many more online than in person—Rubin made a passionate appeal for more arms from the West for Ukraine and spoke of the uncertain fate that awaited many that she had met while there.

Spring 2022 Prizes

In March, the following four graduate students won CENFAD research awards:

- **Ethan Cohen** won a Marvin Wachman Fellowship in Force and Diplomacy in the amount of \$3,000 to attend the Arabic Language Institute in Fez, Morocco, in summer 2022.
- **Graydon Dennison** won a Marvin Wachman Fellowship in Force and Diplomacy in the amount of \$1,000 in support of dissertation research in Panama.

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- **Brandon Kinney** was named the Richard Immerman Fellow for 2022-2023, with \$1,500 going toward his dissertation research in the National Archives in College Park, Maryland.
- **Ryan Langton** won a Marvin Wachman Fellowship in Force and Diplomacy in the amount of \$3,000 for dissertation research in the Clements Library.
- **Casey VanSise** won a Marvin Wachman Fellowship in Force and Diplomacy in the amount of \$3,000 for dissertation research in California, Arizona, and Rhode Island.

The following students received CENFAD funds to present their work at academic conferences:

- **Duncan Knox**, at the conference of the Society for Military History in Fort Worth.
- **Ryan Langton**, at the conference of the Seven Year's War at Fort Ticonderoga.
- **Ariel Natalo-Lifton**, at the conference of the Society for Military History in Fort Worth.
- **Stanley Schwartz**, at the conference of the Society for Military History in Fort Worth.

First CENFAD Emerging Scholar

This year, thanks to the generosity of Temple History PhD Todd Davis, CENFAD established the CENFAD Emerging Scholar Graduate Award. The award aims to recruit and support MA-level students interested in

diplomatic and military history and to do so especially among underrepresented candidates, including women.

I am delighted to announce that the inaugural CENFAD Emerging Scholar is Andrew Coletti, who will be joining the Master's History program in Fall 2022. Welcome to the CENFAD community, Drew!

Thanks to the Davis Fellow

Finally, I want to heartily thank Davis Fellow Casey VanSise, who administered CENFAD during an unpredictable year. In the fall, I was on sabbatical, so Casey had to manage in-person *and* online talks co-hosted by five Temple faculty members (thanks to all of them!). In the spring, we first returned to Zoom, then to campus. Our two-year experiment with Zoom lectures has now prompted CENFAD to broadcast all speakers' talks simultaneously online while also recording them with a camera and posting them on our website.

Next year's Davis Fellow will be Ryan Langton, whose interests center on diplomatic relations between European and Indigenous Americans in the 18th century trans-Appalachian frontier. Welcome to CENFAD, Ryan!